GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2064
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2001
POOR QUALITY OF PDS ITEMS
RAMJI MANJHI

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether during 1992-99 poor quality of commodities were distributed to consumers through Public Distribution System which were not fit for human consumption;

(b) if so, the grading of commodities that were distributed through PDS;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide best quality of commodities/grains to consumers through PDS;

(d) the number of complaints received by the Government regarding selling of poor quality of food grains through PDS during last year; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a)&(b): No, Sir. Only good quality foodgrains conforming to Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) norms were issued to the States and Union Territories for distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) and other welfare schemes of the Government.

(c): The following steps have been taken by the Government to ensure that only good quality foodgrains are distributed:

(i) Ample opportunities are provided to the officials of the State Governments/UTs to inspect the stocks prior to lifting from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns.

(ii) Instruction have been issued to all the State Governments/UTs that an officer not below the rank of Inspector should be deputed to check the quality of foodgrains before lifting from the FCI godowns.

(iii) The samples of foodgrains are to be jointly drawn and sealed by the officers of the State Governments/UTs and the FCI from the stocks for display at the counters of Fair Price Shops for the benefit of consumers.

(iv) The officers of the State Governments` and the Ministry pay surprise checks of the FPSs, to over see the quality of foodgrains being distributed through TPDS.

(v) The officers of the Department designated as `Area Officers` for monitoring the TPDS work in the respective States also undertake visits to the storage depots and the FPSs, during their visit to the States to check the quality of foodgrains being issued.

(d) Eight complaints were received by the Ministry from different State Governments during2000-2001 about supply of poor quality foodgrains.

(e): The matter was immediately taken up with FCI, and necessary instructions were issued to ensure supply of good quality foodgrains conforming to the norms laid down by the Government and PFA standards.